THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The Ministry has received a letter dated 27.1.2005 from the Office of the Guwahati District Bodo Sahitiya Sabha, Guwahati alleging that the Welfare of Plains Tribes and Backward Classes Deptt., Government of Assam have diverted funds meant for TSP areas to other Non-TSP areas. A Statement indicating scheme-wise funds released underArticle275(1) of the Constitution to the State Government of Assam during 2003-2004 is enclosed (See below).

(c) The matter has been taken up with the State Government of Assam for factual report.

Statement

Scheme-wise funds released to Assam during 2003-2004

(Rupees in Lakhs)

SI. No.	Projects 2003-2004	Districts/ITDPs	Amount Released
1.	Construction of roads, Bridges, School buildings, Community Centers etc. 161 Nos.	ITDPsofTezpur, Goalpara, Guwahati, Udalguri, Majuli, Jonai, Mangaldoi, Nalbair North-Lakhimpur, Goalghat, Dibrugarh, Kokrajhar, Dhemaji	
2.	Construction of roads Bridges School building, Communitry Centres etc. 87 Nos.	Proposal from Assam Tribal Development Authority	
		Total	668.87

Committee for development schemes in tribal areas

1344. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:
SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a High Level Cbmmittee to overhaul the existing development schemes in tribal areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;'

(c) whether Government have received any recommendations of the Committee; and

(d) the steps taken to check the growing Naxal influence among tribals?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNOIAH): (a) to (d) The Government have not set up any high-level Standing Committee to overhaul the existing development schemes in tribal areas. However, the Government have constituted a high-level Standing Committee on Inter-Sectoral Issues relating to Tribal Development under the Chairmanship of Dr. Balachandra Mungekar, Member, Planning Commission. The Committee, being a Standing Committee, is mandated to deliberate on various aspects of Tribal development on a continuous basis, including measures to contain disaffection of Tribal communities. The Government is implementing various schemes/programmes in the tribal areas for overall improvement in human development indices of tribal people, including income generation, and enhancement of educational and health status.

Rehabilitation of primitive tribes in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

† 1345. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after the Tsunami calamity, Government have no news about the primitive tribes of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details of these primitive tribes; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for their rescue, relief and rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The following six Tribal communities, namely, (i) Great Andamanese, (ii) Onges, (iii) Jarawas, (iv)Sentinelese, (v) Shompends and (vi) Nicobarese are the inhabitants of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The tsunami waves affected mainly the Nicobar Group of Islands, where the Nicobarese and Shompen tribes reside.lt also affected the habitats of two other tribes *viz.* Onges and Great Andamanese who live in the Andaman Group of Islands. The loss of life among the tribals has occurred only in respect of

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.